

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph number [0015] beginning at page 5, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0015] ~~Fig. 1~~ The figure is a graph which shows the relationship between time and heat flow rate that was observed when the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization were measured in Embodiment 1 and Comparative Examples 1 through 3.

Please delete the paragraph number [0026] beginning at page 10, line 26.

[0026] ~~It is desirable that the content of the low molecular weight compound having an amide group in the polylactic acid composite material of the present invention be 0.1 to 10 wt %; a content of 0.1 to 8 wt % is more desirable, and a content of 0.5 to 8 wt % is even more desirable. If the content of the low molecular weight compound having an amide group is less than the abovementioned lower limit value, the degree to which the rigidity and crystallization rate are improved tends to be insufficient; on the other hand, in cases where the this content exceeds the abovementioned upper limit value, a plasticizing agent effect is manifested to an excessively strong degree, so that the rigidity may decrease.~~

Please replace the paragraph number [0029] beginning at page 12, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0029] In concrete terms, smectite minerals such as ~~montmorillonite~~ montmorillonite, beidellite, saponite, hectorite and the like, kaolinite minerals such as kaolinite, hallosite and the like, vermiculite minerals such as vermiculite, trioctahedral vermiculite and the like, and mica minerals such as teniolite, tetrasilicic mica, muscovite, illite, sericite, phlogobite, biotite and the like may be cited as examples of common layered

clay minerals. These layered clay minerals may be natural minerals, or synthetic minerals produced by hydrothermal synthesis, a melting process, a solid phase process or the like. Furthermore, in the present invention, the abovementioned layered clay minerals may be used singly, or may be used in combinations consisting of two or more minerals. Furthermore, it is desirable that the cation exchange capacity of the layered clay mineral be 30 to 300 meq/100 g.

Please delete the paragraph number [0042] beginning at page 19, line 5.

~~[0042] In the polylactic acid composite material of the present invention, it is desirable that the content of the organically modified layered clay mineral be 0.01 to 10 wt %, a content of 0.01 to 5 wt % is more desirable, a content of 0.1 to 5 wt % is even more desirable, and a content of 0.3 to 3 wt % is most desirable. If the content of the layered clay mineral is less than the abovementioned lower limit value, the degree of improvement in the rigidity and crystallization rate tends to be insufficient; on the other hand, in cases where this content exceeds the abovementioned upper limit value, the polylactic acid becomes brittle, so that the impact strength tends to drop conspicuously.~~

Please replace the paragraph number [0078] beginning at page 33, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~[0078] Using a twin screw extruder (TEX30 α manufactured by Nippon Seikojo), a mixture prepared by adding 3 wt % (calculated as inorganic content) C18(OH)₂-Mt and 1 wt % ethylene-bis-12-hydroxystearic acid amide to a polylactic acid resin (#5400 manufactured by K.K. Toyota jideousya jidosha) was melted and kneaded at a screw rotation speed of 300 rpm, a resin temperature of 200°C, and a resin feed rate of 5 kg/h, thus producing the desired~~

resin composite material. The resin composite material thus obtained was extruded into the form of a strand, quickly cooled with water, and formed into pellets using a strand cutter.

Please replace the paragraph number [0099] beginning at page 38, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0099] The correlation between time and heat of crystallization in the abovementioned measurements is shown in Fig. 1 the figure, and the measurement values obtained are shown in Table 1. Furthermore, in Fig. 1 the figure, the amount of decrease in the heat flow rate corresponds to the heat of crystallization that accompanies crystallization. Furthermore, this means that in Table 1, the crystallization rate is higher as the heat of crystallization accompanying crystallization is greater.

Please replace the paragraph number [0112] beginning at page 41, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0112] A polylactic acid was used “as is” without kneading a low molecular weight compound having an amide group or an organically modified layered clay mineral; the injection moldability, heat distortion temperature and dispersibility were evaluated, and the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization were measured, [in the same manner as described above]. The results obtained are shown in Table 1. Furthermore, the correlation between time and heat flow rate in the measurement of the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization is shown in Fig. 1 the figure. Moreover, under the molding conditions 2 in the evaluation of the injection moldability, and in the evaluation of the heat distortion temperature, sample pieces could not be prepared; accordingly, measurement values could not be obtained. Furthermore, in the measurement of the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization, a crystallization peak could not be observed within the measurement range;

accordingly, measurement values could not be obtained. Furthermore, for convenience, the data for Comparative Example 1 in Fig. 1 the figure is shown with the base line shifted upward (the same is also true of Comparative Examples 2 and 3).

Please replace the paragraph number [0114] beginning at page 42, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0114] A polylactic acid composite material was prepared in the same manner as in Example 1, except that only C18(OH)₂-Mt was added to the polylactic acid; then, the injection moldability, heat distortion temperature and dispersibility were evaluated, and the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization were measured. The results obtained are shown in Table 1. Furthermore, the correlation between time and heat flow rate in the measurement of the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization is shown in Fig. 1 the figure.

Please replace the paragraph number [0116] beginning at page 42, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0116] A polylactic acid composite material was prepared in the same manner as in Example 1, except that only ethylene-bis-12-hydroxystearic acid amide was added to the polylactic acid; then, the injection moldability, heat distortion temperature and dispersibility were evaluated, and the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization were measured. The results obtained are shown in Table 1. Furthermore, the correlation between time and heat flow rate in the measurement of the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization is shown in Fig. 1 the figure. Furthermore, in the measurement of the crystallization rate and heat of crystallization, a crystallization peak could not be observed within the measurement range; accordingly, measurement values could not be obtained.